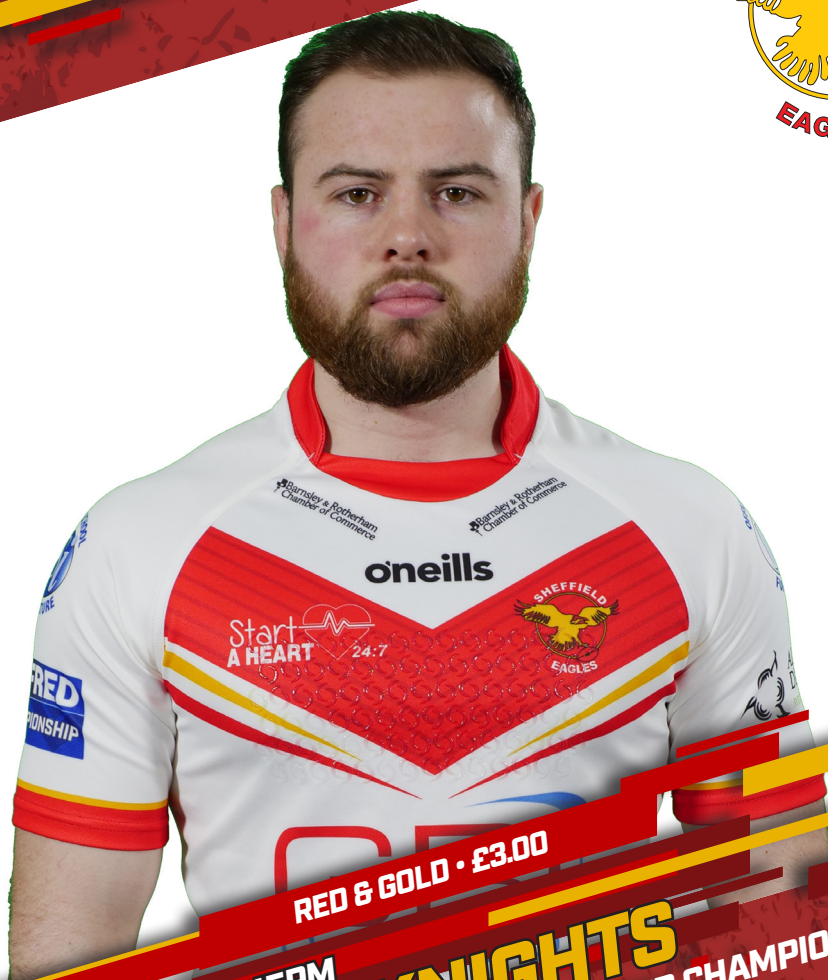


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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Good evening to everyone and I hope you are all well and enjoying your summer Rugby.

I must admit that albeit that the Olympic legacy Park is still waiting to be converted to a stadium and the current setup is far below what we should have, when the sun is shining and some spectators sit on blankets on the side it gives it a great picnic atmosphere and I cannot wait for it to be completed.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome to the Olympic Legacy Park, the home of Sheffield Eagles Rugby League Football club, York Knights with their CEO John Flatman, directors, their backroom staff, players and of course their guests and spectators.

York Knights have one of the most upcoming coaches in the division in James Ford. I would also add that James is an ex Eagle player who played at the Eagles for several years and with his pal 'Franny' they were a delight to have around the place and were a credit to rugby league. I do like to believe that this ethos was and is what our own Mark Aston instils in all his players.

I am away for a few days at the end of the week and as this game is on the Friday I will not be able to attend however I hope you all have a great night and we get the two points which we need.

Last weekend we played Leigh Centurions in what was a great match and we were unlucky not to have come away with the spoils and that takes nothing away from the Centurion players who also played well and came away with the spoils.



This is no criticism of any of the players who were on the field, but I am convinced there is personnel who I believe should not be on the pitch at this level and they leave a great deal to be desired?

Prior to the kick off last Sunday there was rumours flying around that a Championship club had not managed to pay the players wages at the end of the month. I was asked

was it relating to Sheffield Eagles to which I replied that no as Sheffield Eagles wages were paid on time as they have been all season.

Now I am not saying that it is always easy to meet the dates as running clubs at our levels is not easy by any stretch of the imagination but I would estimate that 99% of clubs have a bigger expenditure that they would like and making ends meet is a massive problem for most of the clubs.

I must admit that I thought it was Doncaster who were going into the Semi-finals. However someone smiled on us and we scored and won the game kicking the goal after the hooter. It does mean that we are only eighty minutes from playing at Wembley after the Challenge cup game.

But and it's a big BUT we have to beat Batley at the Olympic Legacy Park on the 28th of July. They like us will want to have the Wembley experience and will not be an easy team to beat we will really have to be on our top form.

Enjoy the game and see you all next week against Dewsbury Rams.

Chairman - Chris Noble MBE



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TUBBY TALK

Welcome back to the OLP as we continue with our triple-header of home games with the visit of York.

There is no doubting the importance of the next two home games, with Dewsbury to follow next Friday.

If we can pick up a couple of victories then we will be right in the pack again for a top five finish.

We know it will be tough, York are a fine side who are going well, whilst Dewsbury ran them close last weekend, but we played well against Leigh and we'll take confidence from the display going into tonight's game.

I don't think anyone could have argued if we had won the game last weekend.

I was proud of the lads, and the performance was something like what we were seeing during the first half of the campaign.

We could have won it at the end, but it wasn't to be. The players were obviously disappointed afterwards but they eventually realised that, despite the result, the performance was a real step in the right direction.

We have set the standard now for the rest of the season, and we know if we can match that performance we'll give ourselves a great chance of victory in our crucial next two games.

There has been a lot of talk about a potential trip to Wembley after our cup victory over Doncaster, but the focus is all about the league at this stage.

Sure, if we can beat Batley then a trip to Wembley would be amazing, but we can't think about that now, it is all about



York and then Dewsbury – both are vital games.

Since my last notes we have added James Thornton to the ranks. I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome him again, and it was good to see him get a run out against Doncaster.

He is still very much finding his feet again after serious injury, but he's a great kid who will have a part to play before the end of the campaign.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to everyone who have joined us from York this evening, and again thank our fans for the magnificent recent support. This is our 3rd of a run of 4 back-to-back home games and now a semi-final against Batley at the end of the month to top it off. Wembley could await...

Enjoy the game.

Tubbs

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COMMERCIAL CORNER



Good afternoon and welcome back to The OLP and welcome to all the Players, Directors and Fans from York.

The home games are coming thick and fast at the moment meaning programme notes are being submitted on almost a weekly basis at the moment.

A week ago today we held our quarterly business lunch at The Genting Club, Sheffield.

This saw us welcome over 120 business for a 3 course lunch with entertainment and, most importantly, the opportunity to network with each other and generate new contact and business opportunities.

I know personally that I spoke to a number of businesses who are interested in getting involved with us for next season.

It is also a good opportunity to get our sponsors names out there and give them the opportunity to network with the wider business community of South Yorkshire.

With the advent of GDPR regulations, networking has become more than ever an integral part of business today. For 2020 we are starting to plan an extended events schedule for businesses, sponsors and fans. Full details will be published shortly.

Speaking of events, we will also soon be announcing details of our end of season dinner.

This is always a popular event and we would like

to get as many people as possible along to celebrate the season with us and the achievements of not only the players, but all involved with The Cub. Again keep an eye on the website for more details.

Finally form me, you will have seen that we have started putting up pitch board around the OLP. For various reasons this has been a drawn out process but the do look excellent and are extremely good value for money.

If you come across anyone or know of any businesses who would be both interested in a pitch board or interested in getting involved with us further on a commercial basis, please ask them to get in contact.

Commercial Director - Mark Hannigan



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FROM THE OFFICE

It's a huge clash tonight here at the Olympic Legacy Park against York. Our top 5 hopes could rest on tonight as victory, was see us move back within two points of the Knights and back into the top 5 (albeit it could be temporary depending on results over the weekend).

Defeat and the men from North Yorkshire go six clear of The Eagles and a uphill struggle awaits for a play-off spot.

I've said this previously, but I have a lot of admiration and respect for what York do off the field. Their new stadium looks fantastic and will be great to head there in 2020.

As I look at the Olympic Legacy Park and the lack of progress made over the past two years, it disappoints me and not afraid to say, jealous, of what the Knights have in store for them next season at a fantastic new facility.

Their media arm, run by Gavin Wilson is great too through Gavin Wilson and does a lot for the club, certainly with their social media.

Turning to our own matters, still no news or progress to report in relation to the Olympic Legacy Park. We are meeting with representatives over the coming weeks and hopefully some positive news and more concrete information and dates can be provided.

Chairman Chris mentioned in his piece the rumours that circulated last weekend in relation to a Championship club not paying player's wages on time and for some bizarre reason, rumours gathered pace and then were aimed at the Eagles.

We don't usually comment on such bogus matters but with journalists posing the questions and rumours growing we felt it right to put out a quick statement to end any of those rumours being pointed at us.

Funds at the club, like no doubt the majority of clubs are extremely tight on a month to month basis and it can be stressful and difficult but paying staff is always the clubs first priority.

Turning to the 1895 Cup, our semi-final has now been confirmed and will take place on Sunday 28 July, kick off 2pm here at the OLP. One game away from Wembley and huge match against Batley, don't miss it.

Adults are priced at £15, Concessions £10 and Under 16's just £1. Tickets are available online now and from the club shop at the John Banner Centre.

I turn 29 on Monday so a victory tonight would certainly be a welcome birthday present. Come on Eagles!

General Manager - Liam Claffey





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STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

Finally, we bring a close to these 3 games in 9 days stint and get back to usual fixtures. It's a nice way to finish out though, Leigh on a Sunday followed by York on a Friday night.

Not a lot of turn around between a couple of tough games off the back of a Wednesday-Sunday spell.

We've beaten York, at York, which was probably one of our highlights early in the season. That was a tough game where we relied on our strength and fitness to hold out for the full 80 minutes. This past weekend against Leigh we showed that some of that hard early season work and



mid-season maintenance is doing the trick as we put in another 80 minute performance, just narrowly falling short at the end through a couple of mistakes.

Looking at this in terms of mind set, we have to take some confidence out of that performance and into York. We had a great game against Batley, Rochdale was a bit rocky but still a solid win, then Doncaster gave us a scare – bearing in mind

they were the last Championship 1 team in the 1895 Cup and had a point to prove, they really wanted that win so we're always going to play out of their skin. Given the shock they gave us and the jittery performance against Rochdale, our effort against Leigh should give the guys a boost ahead of the tough challenge tonight.

We will need to draw on that strength and power we have shown early in the season, combine that with an 80 minute effort, cut out some of the less than ideal decisions and then we should be in a good spot to come out on top.

In training this week we've had some fun, incorporated some recovery work in the gym whilst reducing time out on the field with the aim of giving the players a bit of time to let their bodies recover doing something a bit different after a hard spell.

Fingers crossed we've got the balance right and this will give them the boost they have needed so we can go ahead and do the double over York.

Player Performance Manager - Simon Vardy





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GARETH WALKER



Ryan Carr's appointment as an assistant at Leeds Rhinos this week was a relative rarity in rugby league - a Championship coach being handed a Super League opportunity.

But is that starting to change?

Carr's move across to the Rhinos is tied in with the two clubs' dual registration agreement, and will see his role as Rovers head coach unaffected.

But it is also undoubtedly recognition for the work he has done at Featherstone this year, pulling together a squad at short notice that is well placed to make a Grand Final push.

Leeds director of rugby Kevin Sinfield said: "As a club we are proud of our record of helping young coaches with their development.

"We have a strong backroom team with Chev Walker continuing to assist Richard (Agar) on a full time basis and Rob Burrow and Jonny Wainhouse doing a great job with the under-19s.

"I look forward to seeing Ryan too flourish in our environment."

Not since Daryl Powell was appointed at Castleford six years ago has a Championship

coach been handed a head Super League coaching role.

In fact in the summer era, there has only been five of those - the others being Peter Roe (Featherstone to Wakefield), Paul Cullen (Whitehaven to Warrington), Daryl Van de Velde (Huddersfield to Warrington) and Ian Millward (Leigh to both St Helens and Castleford).

But the tide does seem to be turning.

Carr's work has been recognised and York coach James Ford has been extensively linked with the Hull KR job after the work he has done steering the Knights into play-off contention the first season after promotion.

And Richard Marshall's considerable achievements at Halifax were taken into account when he was recently appointed assistant coach at Super League leaders St Helens.

One person who knows all about coaching at both levels is Salford boss Ian Watson, who says those in the Championship should be given more credit.

"That is a really good grounding school for people," Watson said.

"You have to deal with a lot of things that can come up again in Super League.

"I've got the utmost respect for anyone who plays or coaches in the Championship because I've been there and seen how dedicated you have to be.

"People can be up at 6am to go to work, go into training at 6pm and do some weights or knock holes in each other, get home at 11pm and then repeat the cycle all over again.

"There are some good British coaches in there who would do good jobs in Super League."

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LATEST NEWS

The semi finals of the first AB Sundecks 1895 Cup will be staged back-to-back on the afternoon of Sunday July 28, allowing both to be shown exclusively live through Our League.

The action will kick off at the Olympic Legacy Park in Sheffield at 2pm, as Mark Aston's Eagles aim to reach Wembley for the first time since their famous Challenge Cup shock against Wigan in 1998 – with a home semi final against Batley, who were the first ever Challenge Cup winners in 1897, but have not reached the final since it was switched to Wembley in 1929.

Then at 4pm, with the first place in the first 1895 Cup Final secure, the focus will switch to the Leigh Sports Village for the showdown between two clubs with a rich Wembley pedigree. Leigh will be aiming for a first Wembley appearance since 1971, when Alex Murphy won the Lance Todd Trophy as man of the match in their 24-7 Challenge Cup triumph against Leeds.

But they will face a Widnes team who have made no fewer than 13 Wembley appearances, including seven Challenge Cup wins – but whose last appearance came in a 1993 defeat by Wigan.

Mark Foster, the RFL's Chief Commercial Officer, said: "Our League has followed the new Road to Wembley for non-Super League clubs with live coverage from ties at Hunslet, Barrow and most recently York where Batley secured their semi final place in Golden Point extra time.

"So we're delighted to confirm that both semi finals of the AB Sundecks 1895 Cup will be shown exclusively live on Our League – and our thanks go to all four clubs for being flexible with the kick-off times and allowing this to happen.

AB Sundecks 1895 Cup Semi Finals – both games on Sunday July 28, to be shown live on Our League:

Sheffield Eagles v Batley Bulldogs – at Olympic Legacy Park, Sheffield, 2pm kick-off;

Leigh Centurions v Widnes Vikings – at Leigh Sports Village, 4pm kick-off.

(AB Sundecks 1895 Cup Final – Saturday August 24, Wembley Stadium, 5.30pm kick-off)

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Oliver Davies



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OLIVER DAVIES

DF: Oliver, we head into this Friday's game after a narrow loss to Leigh Centurions. What are the lads taking away from that tough battle against a top five rival?

OD: It felt good, even as soon as we kicked off. The last few weeks have been a bit frustrating within the team and the lads.

It took a bit of our team spirit away but it was clear to see at the weekend that it was back and we were believing in ourselves.

DF: It's the second time this season that we have ran them close and it was an improved performance. I guess now it's all about making it into an 80-minute performance?

OD: That's exactly right. Tubbs spoke about it after the game that we deserved to win both games against Leigh but it was just tiny little errors that have cost us and has stung us twice.

DF: We have been off the pace against some of the teams around us so how important is it that we start to put that right tonight?

OD: Leigh are a top side and that's where we want to be. We believed we could and should have won that game, that goes to show where we believe we can be.

We will take that into the York game and our away fixture against them was probably the toughest we've had all season and we came away with the win. We had that tight team spirit and that's what we'll need again.

DF: Our win against York earlier on in the



season was one of the best highlights so far this year. We know exactly what sort of threat they will bring don't we?

OD: They're a hard-working bunch, all working for each other and they have that team spirit and tightness.

Tubbs has said we need to galvanise each other and York do that well. When you have a tight bunch, you want to do that and anything is possible.



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OLIVER DAVIES

DF: It's also a big game for you and the forwards as they will look to put us on the front foot. We need to come out of the blocks fast don't we?

OD: Exactly. The middles have had a bit of stick in recent weeks and Sunday we showed that we have a great pack and went toe to toe with one of the best packs in the league. It shows that when we're on our game, working for each other, we're as good as anybody.

DF: With a few points separating us from the top five, will this be billed as our biggest game of the season or is it just another case of taking each game week by week?

OD: It is about taking each game week by week. They're all massive games and there's no easy games coming. We can't take our foot off the gas and we have to go 100 mile-per-hour to get the victories.





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GETTING TO KNOW

Tightest Player?

Jimmy Davey, doesn't even bring a towel to training either he's that tight! [Another week for James Davey...]

Favourite Actor?

Tom Hardy

Best Stadium?

DW Stadium

Favourite Film?

The Dark Knight!

Come Dine with Me – Meal you'd make & three guests?

Starter, chilli squid, mains, we'll go with the prawn chilli alfredo that I make - and it's mad good! Dessert will be chocolate fudge cake covered in cream. My three dinner guests will be Will Ferrell, Matt Fraser the cross-fitter and David Attenborough.

Best RL Moment?

Beating Australia with the England Academy.



Oliver Davies

Number: 15
Position: Second Row

Height: 5ft 11'
Weight: 94kg

Twitter:
@OliverJDavies1

Lagging Behind?

Has to be Matt James now doesn't it!

Best Trainer?

Ryan Millar

Worst Dressed?

Put down every single one of them, they all dress terribly!!

City Break or Beach Holiday?

Beach Holiday!

Amateur Club?

Orrell St James

TODAY'S TEAMS



SHEFFIELD EAGLES

	T	G	DG
1. Josh Guzdek	●	●	●
2. Ryan Millar	●	●	●
4. Jason Crookes	●	●	●
5. Ben Blackmore	●	●	●
6. Pat Walker	●	●	●
7. Anthony Thackeray	●	●	●
8. Pat Moran	●	●	●
9. James Davey	●	●	●
10. Matt James	●	●	●
11. Brad Knowles	●	●	●
12. Joel Farrell	●	●	●
13. Aaron Brown	●	●	●
14. Greg Burns	●	●	●
15. Oliver Davies	●	●	●
16. Corey Makelim	●	●	●
17. Shaun Pick	●	●	●
18. James Glover	●	●	●
19. Sonny Esselmont	●	●	●
21. Blake Broadbent	●	●	●
22. Paddy Burns	●	●	●
23. Rory Dixon	●	●	●
25. Lewis Taylor	●	●	●
26. Joslin Landu	●	●	●
29. Ben Hellewell	●	●	●
31. Nathan Mason	●	●	●

Referee: A. Moore

Touch Judges: A. Martin & E. McCarthy

YORK CITY KNIGHTS

T G DG

●	●	●	1. Matty Marsh
●	●	●	2. Ash Robson
●	●	●	3. Liam Salter
●	●	●	4. Brad Hey
●	●	●	5. Matt Chilton
●	●	●	7. Connor Robinson
●	●	●	8. Ronan Dixon
●	●	●	9. Will Jubb
●	●	●	10. Jack Teanby
●	●	●	11. Josh Jordan-Roberts
●	●	●	12. Sam Scott
●	●	●	13. Tim Spears
●	●	●	14. Harry Carter
●	●	●	15. Graeme Horne
●	●	●	16. Jack Blagbrough
●	●	●	17. Joe Porter
●	●	●	19. Mike Kelly
●	●	●	20. Perry Whiteley
●	●	●	21. Judah Mazive
●	●	●	22. Marcus Stock
●	●	●	23. Jason Bass
●	●	●	24. Kevin Brown
●	●	●	26. Kriss Brining
●	●	●	38. Liam Harris
●	●	●	39. William Oakes

Match Comissioner: P. Crashley

Time Keeper: D. Milburn



LEIGH CENTURIONS

30/06/19

Despite an equal amount of tries the Sheffield Eagles fell short to the Leigh Centurions on Sunday, losing out 18-22.

After last Wednesday's last gasp win over Doncaster the Eagles were boosted with some firepower from dual-registration partners London Broncos. James Meadows, Nathan Mason and Sadiq Adebiyi joined fellow Bronco Jacob Ogden in the Sheffield matchday squad.

Leigh applied some early pressure as Sheffield conceded two early goal-line dropouts. The Eagles had an effort chalked off as Anthony Thackeray was deemed offside from Pat Walker's grubber kick.

The visitors did open the scoring thanks to Liam Forsyth who stepped inside of the Sheffield defence to touch-down. Martyn Ridyard added the extras for the visitors.

The Eagles replied within two minutes, after a 40/20 kick from Pat Walker, Thackeray soon scored. His trademark dummy fooled the Leigh defence and Walker's conversion tied up the score.

Leigh replied instantly and led at the interval through Ryan Brierley following an inside ball but Ridyard couldn't convert from the right edge.

After the break Leigh extended their advantage despite a decent start from Sheffield.

Forsyth crossed for his second four pointer of the afternoon, powerfully scoring despite the attention of a number of Eagles defenders.

The start of the attempted fight-back began with a smart team try from Sheffield.

Ben Blackmore superbly finished

off a well worked move with an acrobatic finish in the corner.

Ridyard scored what proved to be the match-winning try, his conversion opened up a twelve point lead for the Centurions.

With just under 15 minutes remaining the Eagles scored in style again. Joel Farrell broke downfield and winger Ryan Millar was in support to finish the try. Crucially, James Meadows couldn't convert from the touchline.

With seven minutes to go, the Eagles were in again. Blackmore scored after collecting a looping pass and Meadows's unsuccessful conversion meant just four points separated the sides.

The Eagles ran the Leythers close and a knock-on close to the Centurions line ended any hope of another late win for the South Yorkshire side.

The Eagles' frustrations grew as Meadows was sent off as the hooter sounded.



MATCH REPORT

**SHEFFIELD
EAGLES**

18-22

**LEIGH
CENTURIONS**

- 1. Josh Guzdek
- 2. Ryan Millar
- 27. Jacob Ogden
- 4. Jason Crookes
- 5. Ben Blackmore
- 6. Pat Walker
- 7. Anthony Thackeray
- 8. Pat Moran
- 9. James Davey
- 11. Bradley Knowles
- 12. Joel Farrell
- 15. Oliver Davies
- 13. Aaron Brown

INTERCHANGE

- 32. James Meadows
- 22. Patrick Burns
- 31. Nathan Mason
- 30. Sadiq Adebiyi



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- 35. Ryan Brierley
- 40. Matthew Costello
- 3. Iain Thornley
- 41. Joshua Simms
- 25. Liam Forsyth
- 6. Martyn Ridyard
- 7. Joshua Woods
- 8. Tom Spencer
- 9. Micky Higham
- 13. Luke Adamson
- 11. Toby Adamson
- 12. Andy Thornley
- 15. Joe Cator

INTERCHANGE

- 27. Liam Hood
- 30. Cory Paterson
- 22. Jordan Thompson
- 24. Gareth Hock



TODAY'S VISITORS

York City Knights will arrive at the Olympic Legacy Park tonight in a buoyant mood following their last-gasp victory over Dewsbury last weekend.

The Knights who looked to be out of the contest with less than a minute remaining at 20-21 and the Rams looked to have sealed the win but instead of choosing to level the scores with a drop goal, the home side took their opportunity and a great kick from Liam Harris saw Matty Marsh touch down to send the crowd wild at Bootham Crescent.

York, who dominated in the Beffred League 1 competition in 2018 have recruited well following promotion and shrugged off the moniker than some clubs face, 'straight up, straight back down' and sit in the lofty heights of fourth ahead of tonight's game, no mean feat.

Four points clear of the Eagles, a victory for them tonight could see them put down a huge marker for a spot in the top 5 come the end of the 2019 campaign and put a huge dent in Mark Aston's sides' chances of making the end of season play-offs.

Ex-Eagle James Ford has put together a youthful side with bags of talent and plays an exciting brand of rugby league.

With the new stadium all but complete, the Knights are seen in many quarters as a sleeping giant. Great facility, good fan base and lots of potential, no matter how great 2019 finishes for Jon Flatman's club, they will be looking to progress even further come 2020.



13 wins out of 19 games sees York level on points Toulouse and York who sit in 2nd and 3rd place in the League Table respectively with better points differences than the Knights.

A number of Ex-Eagles sit in their ranks including Sam Scott who had two spells in South Yorkshire along with Perry Whiteley who competed for Sheffield during the 2017 campaign.

They have talent in the backs including the likes of youngster Connor Robinson, recent recruit Liam Harris and Ex-Hull KR men Matt Marsh and Liam Salter.

Up-front the powerful prop Jack Teanby is a handful and was recently rewarded with a new 1-year deal for 2020, the start of the Knights recruitment drive for 2020.

Our last clash with York was a thrilling affair and no doubt tonight will be the same tonight!

THREE TO WATCH

Liam Harris

Half-back Harris headed to the Knights on a season long loan from Hull FC back in May after finding his chances limited behind the likes of Albert Kelly, Marc Sneyd & Jake Connor at the Black & Whites.

Previously one the other side of Hull with KR, he played for the Knights on dual-registration from them back in 2017 and became a firm favourites with supporters scoring 14 tries and kicking 12 goals and was a key member of the squad who shocked Toronto Wolfpack with victory over them in their inaugural season.

A creative half-back with an excellent kicking game, he'll be a huge attacking threat tonight.



Matty Marsh

Another play who shone on dual registration for York, was Matty Marsh who following stiff competition, run the race for his signature in the off-season, securing his services on a permanent basis. He won several plaudits at Kingston Rovers including Academy Player of the Year & Young Player of Year but found his opportunities limited on Humberside.

Currently playing at full-back, he can operate across a number of positions, including half-back which with the retirement of Ben Cockayne could be invaluable for Jon Ford's side. A ball-runner and safe under a high bomb, he scored the last minute try to secure York's victory over Dewsbury last weekend.



Marcus Stock

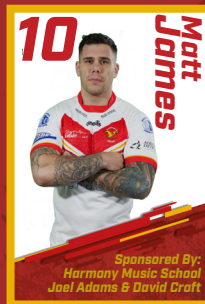
Milton Keynes born Marcus Stock learned his rugby league trade with Sheffield Eagles as part of the club's youth development system alongside his studies at the University of Sheffield where he captained their rugby league side also.

His great form during his university days saw him join the England Students side and plied his trade at Hemel Stags in 2018 where his hard running, great defences efforts were noticed by a number of Championship sides with York bagging his services.


The youngster will have a point to prove against his old club tonight.



PLAYER PROFILES



15 **Oliver Davies**



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16 **Corey Makelim**



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17 **Shaun Pick**



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18 **James Glover**



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19 **Sonny Esslemont**



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21 **Blake Broadbent**



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VIEW FROM THE PARK



Two very close games in the space of five days and we are one step from Wembley but a few behind from getting back into the top five.

The quarter-final of the 1895 Cup against Doncaster will live in the memory for a while. A stunning final quarter from a rather lacklustre Eagles side got them over the line as Anthony Thackeray provided the killer blow with 20 seconds to go.

It was a game where Donny led, and dominated, for the most part and were thoroughly deserving of a place in the semi-final. But Sheffield did show, in the end, the quality they have in the locker and it certainly helped that the Dons tired going into the final minutes.

Josh Guzdek was at the heart of the attack in the final quarter and his miraculous offload

to Thackeray was the icing on the cake as the travelling Eagles fans could not believe their eyes.

Despite some of the criticism that the cup has received, we are still only 80 minutes from a Wembley final and that is something I didn't think I'd write for a long time.

Batley Bulldogs stand in our way and although we have beaten them convincingly on two occasions this season, they will be wanting revenge in the biggest way; by denying Sheffield a return to Wembley.

Moving on to today, and the game against York, it is a massive contest for us if we want to stay in the top five race. A loss would see us cut adrift and a long way back from the

playoffs. A win puts us bang in it.

A tough loss to Leigh, for the second time this season, was hard to take at the weekend but the lads showed improvement and they won't be too disheartened going into this.

James Ford's Knights stole victory from the jaws of defeat last time out against the Rams. Having had 11 men for a time, and 12 men for quite a while, they still managed to find a way to win and that is the sign of a quality team.

They do like to throw the ball about well and we need to stop their key playmakers and danger men on the flanks. If we can do that then I'll be confident we can get a win and get back on track.

It's something we certainly need, that is for sure!

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CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

Sublime, Wonderful, Graceful, Majestic, Maestro, Master of the Centre Court & Perfect are some of the words that have been used to describe Roger Federer, the tennis player who has been called the most perfect tennis player ever to grace the centre court at Wimbledon. During his career he has won 20 Grand Slam Singles Titles.

Federer entered the Tennis scene at Wimbledon twenty one years ago by winning the Junior singles title. He is one of only four players that have won both the Junior and Senior Title at Wimbledon alongside Bjorn Borg, Pat Cash & Stefan Edberg.

Anyone with the longevity that Federer has in and still be at the top in any career has to be committed and focussed.

This Tuesday afternoon I was watching Federer once again at Wimbledon showing how good he is; even at the age of 37 beating South African player Lloyd Harris. Many of Federer's fans were wearing caps with the word PeRFeCt on them.

Afterwards Boris Becker was talking how even after going behind one set Federer still came out winning. In nearly 1,500 competitive games he has never once retired from a game. His mental attitude to keep competing no matter what the result of the game is something we can all learn from. His game frequently looks perfect, no doubt from his commitment to work hard and desire to keep on improving. It is interesting how some people think that to become perfect at

something you need to be a perfectionist, but they're actually different. As Brenee Brown points out, being a perfectionist can have a negative effect on your life or others:

'perfectionism is not the same as striving to be our best. Perfectionism is not about

healthy achievement and growth; it's about earning approval and acceptance.'

There is nothing wrong in wanting to improve, whatever your sport or work may be,

but when it becomes an obsession we can move from wanting to be perfect to being driven to be a perfectionist.

Ryan Holiday says: 'Perfectionism rarely creates perfection, or satisfaction – only disappointment.' So if we are not careful our desires to be good and perfect can and could lead us to feeling oppressed and restricted as we will never feel content with our achievements due to the nagging thoughts of I should or could have done better. Perfectionism can lead us to be over critical in many ways and constantly pulling ourselves down, due to the high standards we set ourselves and the comparison of others.

'I have to say that I've always believed perfectionism is more of a disease than a quality' Rowan Atkinson.

Let your desire to be perfect not become a disease of perfectionism but a desire to do your best. There is nothing wrong with wanting to develop and improve.

Club Chaplain - Baz Gascoyne





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COMMUNITY GAME

Sheffield Hawks ARLFC are an amateur rugby league club based in the steel city and this year we celebrate 30 years as a rugby league club having set up in 1989.

We currently have a strong junior set up with teams aged from 4 years old up to U18's as well as running at open age level.

We are currently running teams from Little Hawks (4-7 year olds boys & girls), U9's, U11's, U13's, U15's, U16's, U18's and winter and summer Open Age teams.

We are currently on the lookout for female players wanting to join our brand new Women's Open Age team.

We are proud to run our teams from the Niagara Conference & Leisure Centre based in the heart of Sheffield.

All our junior teams play in the Yorkshire Junior leagues, our Open Age summer team play in the Yorkshire Men's league.

Over the last few seasons we have had former Sheffield Eagles, Wakefield and Fijian international Waisale Sotavalta, Former Sheffield Eagles and Scotland international, Jack Howieson, Sheffield Eagles and PNG international, Menzie Yere and Greek international and current Doncaster RLFC player Stefanos Bastas play for our Open Age team.

We are proud to have the following players currently within semi & professional clubs.

Eddie Battye – London Broncos



Cory Aston – Castleford Tigers

Greg Burns – Sheffield Eagles

Paddy Burns – Sheffield Eagles

Connor Scott – Doncaster RLFC

Dan Hawksworth – Hunslet RLFC

Alex Williams – Keighley Cougars

Reece Williams – Keighley Cougars

Corey Hall – Wigan Warriors

All our teams train at the Niagara Centre on a Tuesday night with Little Hawks up to U16's training from 6pm and U18's and Open Age training from 7pm.

We welcome players to any of our teams so if you are looking to join or your child wants to play then please come down to training or get in touch via our Facebook page by searching for "Sheffieldhawks".

Keep up to date with news and fixtures via our facebook and twitter pages and join in with the conversation.

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introducing other products to our portfolio. Our key USP has always been the provision of tailored, bespoke solutions, built exactly to client specification, in consultation with our experienced consultants, to ensure each customer has the perfect solution for their business. We are looking forward to working in partnership with Sage to enhance our offering, and the solutions available to their customers".

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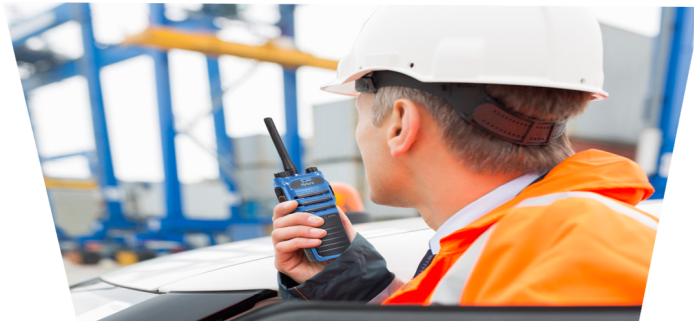
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